

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Giovanni Taurasi, Anne Deveny, Philomena Dickson.

Anniversaries: William Greene, Christopher P. Burke, Marcus Taylor, John Walsh, Margaret Flanagan.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Keep, O Lord, my heart at peace and always close to Thee—You who calmed the sea.”

St Joseph Calasanaz

“What a spectacle it was for me to see John Henry Newman at my feet, begging for confession and that I admit him to the bosom of the Church.”
Bl Dominic Barberi



“The more completely a soul is wrapped up in itself and in its own abilities, by habit and affection, the less prepared it is for union; for it gives not God a complete opportunity to transform it supernaturally. The soul, then, needs only to strip itself of these natural dissimilarities and contrarieties, so that *God, Who is always communicating Himself naturally to it, according to the course of nature, may communicate Himself to it through the Holy Spirit, by means of grace.*”

St John of the Cross



Last Week's collection was:
£1336.01 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 24TH AUGUST 2025



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 24th August

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 25th August

St Joseph Calasanaz

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 26th August

Blessed Dominic Barberi

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 27th August

NO MASS

Thursday 28th August

NO MASS

Friday 29th August

NO MASS

Saturday 30th August

Holy Mass
Sunday Vigil 5pm

Fast

On Friday gone, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, Pope Leo asked that we remember Mary, particularly, as Queen of Peace and that we take time to **fast and pray** for her intercession for the Holy Land and Ukraine.

200 Club

There are just a few numbers left. If you **did not have** a number in last year's 200 Club but would like to be part of the monthly draw for 2025/26 then please have a word with me after Mass.

Tea and Turf—Save the Date

The Parish Social Committee are pleased to announce an exciting new event for the Autumn. A group of parishioners—former members of OLOG PTA and old hands at arranging memorable parish events—are organizing a social in aid of the Redecoration Fund. This will take place on **Sunday 12th October** from 3pm onwards. It will comprise a 'Slattery's' Afternoon Tea and an Afternoon at the Races: Our very own Ascott to lift your spirits as the nights draw in. More details will follow soon but please save the date for now.

Quiz and Bingo Night

The next Social will be a Quiz and Bingo Night facilitated by Sue and Joanne from the Friendship Club on Friday 5th September at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £2 each after Mass.

Buildings Up-Date

As you can see, work is ongoing and this week the sanctuary itself will be scaffolded and redecoration of the chapels and altar area will commence. It's messy and inconvenient but a small price for what will be a much improved worship space. There are some pictures in the porch of the lantern roof and parish hall floor.

Honey Badgers Beatles Concert

On Sunday 7th Sept from 2.45pm The Honey Badgers will perform a Beatles tribute concert in aid of Duchenne UK Muscular Dystrophy. The organisers welcome parishioners who might like to attend—£5 entrance cash on the door.

The Narrow Door

How does God's grace work? What does it do in our world and in our lives? Does the gift of divine grace really become part of us? Does it change us from the inside when we co-operate with it or is it just a helpful force from without? I had a teacher who always used to say, 'God's grace is not like putting on a coat: It's like putting on weight.' Grace is not like a handy help we use, occasionally, that's not part of us—it's something that gradually changes who we are from within: It makes us holy, children of God. I like that image of putting on weight—except, of course, grace would always make us smaller, wouldn't it? - not bigger! Grace slowly makes us little children who can enter through the narrow door of the Kingdom. It makes us Son-size, like Jesus.

When a member of the Royal House of Hapsburg dies, a wonderful thing takes place called "the Knocking Ceremony". The funeral cortège ends at the closed gates of the Capuchin Cemetery in Vienna. The Chamberlin bangs on the gates and a friar from within shouts, "Who wants entry?" "Her Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty, The Empress of Austria, Apostolic Queen of Hungary, Queen of Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, Galicia and Illyria, King of Jerusalem, Grand Duchess of Tuscany and Cracow, Duchess of Lorraine, Salzburg and Corinthia—Princely Countess of Hapsburg and Tyrol ..." "We do not know her," the friar replies. "Who wants entry?" "Zita, Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary." "We do not know her here. Who wants entry?" "Zita, a poor, human sinner." "Come in," says the friar, finally. That's the life of grace for us all—shedding our airs and graces and our sense of our self.

The other week, this happened to me when a friend of mine was telling me about the priest in her parish. She was unhappy that, with all the horror going on in the world, he just kept preaching about personal holiness. It's as if we're not connected, related to all this stuff," she said. "That's me," I thought—I do that too. But then again, that's the beauty of the one gift of Grace working in each of us. Grace unites us. So that our becoming smaller, here, where we are—our little sacrifices, sufferings and inconveniences—our becoming holy by grace—is related to the horrors others are experiencing at this time, to sorrows that are bringing them low.

When we come around this altar—as messy and inconvenient as it is at the moment—we come with those from east and west, north and south, with all the children of Abraham, strangers and outcast. We come to seek entry into the peace of the Kingdom of God:—To ask that God will make us small enough to be admitted—to willingly take up the sacrifice that makes us one. At least we can offer that much to God for our sisters and brothers throughout the world.